

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 OPIC-03 AID-05 EURE-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 OC-05 CCO-00 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05

SCCT-01 SCA-01 DHA-02 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01

AF-06 IO-10 ORM-01 /115 W
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O R 151259Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3792

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 4681

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: POWER STRUGGLE: SITUATION AUGUST 15

REF: LISBON 4674

SUMMARY: INTENSIVE NEGOTIATIONS ARE UNDER WAY BETWEEN THE
PRESIDENT, THE ANTUNES GROUP, AND OTELO IN THE STRUGGLE TO OUST
GONCALVES. ANTUNES GROUPS HAS THE GUNS BUT STILL LACKS THE
SUPPORT OF OTELO, WHOSE COOPERATION IS ESSENTIAL IN REMOVING
GONCALVES GROUP. PRESIDENT HAS MADE IT CLEAR HE WILL NOT TAKE
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INITIATIVE AGAINST HIS FRIEND GONCALVES. COSTA GOMES WILL MOVE

AGAINST GONCALVES ONLY WHEN IS FORCED TO DO SO AND THAT FORCE IS EVIDENT TO GONCALVES. END SUMMARY.

1. EFFORT TO OUST GONCALVES: INTENSIVE THREE-WAY NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE ANTUNES GROUP (WHO MET WITH THE PRESIDENT NIGHT OF AUGUST 14), GENERAL OTELO CARVALHO, AND THE PRESIDENT ARE CONTINUING. WE UNDERSTAND THAT OTELO IS THOUGH TO BELIEVE THAT A COMPROMISE IS POSSIBLE BETWEEN THOSE SUPPORTING THE COPCON DOCUMENT AND ANTUNES GROUP. PRESIDENT, BECAUSE OF HIS FRIENDSHIP WITH PRIME MINISTER, IS DRAGGING HIS FEET ON DUMPING GONCALVES DESPITE SUPPORT FOR THE ANTUNES DOCUMENT IN MILITARY UNITS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

2. FURTHER REACTION TO COPCON AND MELO ANTUNES DOCUMENTS: COMMUNIST-LINING J-5 (PROPAGANDA AND CULTURAL DYNAMIZATION) OF THE ARMED FORCES GENERAL STAFF ON AUGUST 14 ISSUED STATEMENT OF GENERAL SUPPORT FOR COPCON DOCUMENT. J-5 SPOKESMAN, HOWEVER, NOTED CERTAIN AREAS OF COPCON DOCUMENT WHERE "CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM" WAS IN ORDER. WHILE AGREEING WITH BASIC THESIS THAT DIRECT LINKS BETWEEN ARMED FORECES MOVEMENT (AFM) AND PEOPLE MUST BE STRENGTHENED, J-5 TOOK EXCEPTION TO THE SINGLING OUT OF COMMUNISTS FOR CRITICISM IN THE COPCON DOCUMENT. AT THE SAME TIME THE J-5 CLAIMED IT WAS NOT A CREATURE OF THE PCP. THE CULTURAL DYNAMIZATION SECTION OF THE NAVY ON AUGUST 14 ISSUED ITS OWN CRITIQUE OF THE MELO ANTUNES DOCUMENT. THE NAVY DOCUMENT IS LESS AN ALTERNATE PROPOSAL THAN A POINT-BY-POINT ATTACK ON THE MELO ANTUNES DOCUMENT AND THOSE WHO SIGNED IT. NAVY DOCUMENT ALSO SUGGESTS COLLUSION BETWEEN MELO ANTUNES GROUP AND SOCIALIST PARTY.

3. SOCIALIST AND COMMUNIST RALLIES. BOTH THE PS AND PCP HELD LARGE RALLIES IN LISBON ON NIGHT OF AUGUST 14. THE COMMUNISTS FILLED THE INDOOR SPORTS PAVILION AND THE PS HAD BOUT 15,000 IN FRONT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE. ALL RALLIES, INCLUDING A BIG SOCIALIST RALLY IN PORTO, WENT OFF PEACEFULLY. THE PS RALLY WAS NOTABLE FOR SOCIALISTS' HARD ATTACK ON THE GOVERNMENT AND DEMANDS FOR THE RESIGNATION OF THE PRIME MINISTER. CUNHAL SPOKE TO THE COMMUNISTS AND MADE FOLLOWING MAIN POINTS:
--APPEALED FOR UNITY OF THE "PROGRESSIVE FORCES";
--SAID PCP WOULD NOT RETALIATE AGAINST THE VIOLENCE
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DIRECTED AGAINST IT;
--SAID MILITARY MUST DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE ATTACKS ON PCP INSTALLATIONS;
--WELCOME SUPPORT OF THE FRENCH PC;
--SAID SOCIAL DEMOCRACY OPENED THE WAY FOR FASCISM.
IN GENERAL, CUNHAL WAS FIRM BUT NOT INFLAMMATORY.

4. INTERSINDICAL CALLS FOR GENERAL STRIKE: ON AUGUST 14,

INTERSINDICAL CALLED FOR HALF-HOUR NATIONWIDE GENERAL STRIKE TO PROTEST CURRENT VIOLENCE AGAINST "PROGRESSIVE" FORCES IN PORTUGAL AND TO DEMAND "DEMOCRATIC AND REVOLUTIONARY AUTHORITY" AGAINST VIOLENCE. STRIKE TO TAKE PLACE BETWEEN 11:00 AND 11:30 A.M. ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 19.

5. ANGOLA: GOP ANNOUNCED AUGUST 14 THAT ACTING HIGH COMMISSIONER IN ANGOLA WAS TAKING FULL CONTROL OF THE GOVERNMENT. THIS STEP, THE STATEMENTS IN LISBON BY ANGOLA MINISTER OF FINANCE THAT "NOBODY IS GOVERNING IN ANGOLA," AND THE SUDDEN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF REFUGEES COMING IN LISBON HAVE BROUGHT HOME TO THE PORTUGUESE THE DIMENSIONS OF THEIR ANGOLA FIASCO. PLANNING IS JUST NOW BEGINNING FOR HANDLING THE REFUGEE INFLUX. IN AN EFFORT TO IMPROVE THE DUNKERQUE-LIKE APPEARANCE OF LISBON AIRPORT, THE GOVERNMENT IS NOW BUSSING REFUGEES DIRECTLY FROM PLANESIDE TO REFUGEE CAMPS ACROSS THE RIVER.

6. REACTION TO SECRETARY'S BIRMINGHAM SPEECH: ONE OF THE TWO LISBON MORNING PAPERS AUGUST 15 CARRIED A STRAIGHT STORY ON THE SPEECH: THE OTHER DID NOT COVER IT. BBC ENGLISH AND PORTUGUESE BROADCASTS (A PRIME SOURCE OF INFORMATION FOR THE PORTUGUESE ELITES; BBC SCHEDULES ARE CARRIED IN LOCAL NEWSPAPERS) GAVE FULL COVERAGE TO THE SPEECH. BECAUSE OF FRIDAY HOLIDAY, PAPERS WILL NOT APPEAR AGAIN UNTIL SATURDAY EVENING.

7. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH POLITICAL-MILITARY SITUATION GETS MUDDIER AS MORE GROUPS GET THEIR OARS INTO THE WATER. THE UNDERLYING FACT IS THAT THE ANTUNES GROUP APPARENTLY HAS MOST OF THE GUNS BUT THEY STILL LACK THE SUPPORT OF OTELO, WHOSE COOPERATION IS ESSENTIAL IN REMOVING GONCALVES AND HIS GROUP. IN ADDITION, PRESIDENT HAS MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE WILL TAKE NO INITIATIVES IN FIRING HIS FRIEND GONCALVES. IN EMBASSY'S JUDGMENT HE WILL MOVE AGAINST GONCALVES ONLY WHEN

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HE IS FORCED TO DO SO AND WHEN THAT FORCE IS EVIDENT TO GONCALVES.
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